

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

**Local
Government
Advisory
Committee**



DEC 13 2011

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Dear Administrator Jackson:

On behalf of EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) we are providing the Committee's preliminary finding in respect to EPA's *Plan EJ 2014*. In July, 2010, EPA released *Plan EJ 2014* for public review and comment. It sets forth a four- year blueprint "for integrating environmental justice into its programs, policies, and activities". We commend you for this effort, particularly in engaging stakeholders in developing this plan. Our role of this Committee is to provide you advice on how best to implement policies and procedures from the perspective of thousands of local governments and authorities across the nation. With this role in mind, we are writing to request dialogue and coordination with local governments on *Plan EJ 2014*.

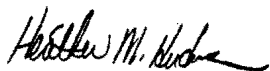
Local governments make daily decisions on a wide range of competing human needs of our citizens and these decisions must be balanced among pressing issues arising from reduced resources. Our intergovernmental partnership with EPA and the states is increasingly important as regulations and initiatives are implemented often by our communities. For this reason, the premises and objectives of *Plan EJ 2014* are also important to local governments to have meaningful and collaborative dialogue with local governments and communities.

The Committee recognizes the tremendous effort of the culmination of EPA programs and regions to develop this strategy which seeks to advance environmental justice. We would also like to commend the agency for seeking consultation and coordination on *Plan EJ 2014* with federally

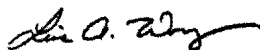
recognized tribes in accordance with the EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes (www.epa.gov/tribal/consultation/consult-policy.htm).

Furthermore, we believe extending this consultation to local governments will provide the agency with the benefit of the insight of our local perspectives and provide the agency with further approaches for effective implementation and assessment. Also, we believe that environmental justice should be part of the EPA culture and given full consideration early in the process. We very much appreciate the work of your staff in developing *Plan EJ 2014* and their assistance to this Committee. We hope you will consider this request and appreciate the opportunity to advise you on this and other of your important priorities.

Sincerely,



Heather McTeer Hudson
Chairwoman



Lisa Wong
Chairwoman, Expanding the
Conversation (EJ) Workgroup